

May 8, 2010

ADDENDUM TO THE QUALITY ASSURANCE SAMPLING PLAN  
WATER AND SEDIMENT SAMPLING AND MONITORING  
FOR THE  
DEEPWATER HORIZON INCIDENT

This is an addendum to the Quality Assurance Sampling Plan (QASP) that was developed for the purpose of assessing the impacts of the Deepwater Horizon Incident on the water and sediment quality of southeast Louisiana.

The purposes of this field reconnaissance and sampling effort are:

1. Determine the presence or absence of oil from the spill in surface water near the locations sampled under the original QASP;
2. Collect new samples at those surface water locations where oil is not yet visible to characterize existing (baseline) the water quality conditions for future comparisons in as the oil spill moves along the Gulf Coast.

Table and maps are available to locate these sample points.

Surface water sampling collection, documentation, analytical methods, and will be conducted using the Quality Assurance Sampling Plan for Water and Sediment Sampling and Monitoring for the Deepwater Horizon Incident, May 8, 2010. The QASP is being amended to modify: 1) the selection of sampling locations, 2) the analyses that will be necessary at these locations, and 3) the turnaround time for the future analytical results from future surface water and sediment samples.

START personnel will collect surface water samples for EPA. Surface water will be inspected for the visual presence of oil. Up to 20 surface water samples will be collected from areas where oil is not yet visible and submitted to a qualified subcontracted commercial laboratory to be analyzed for:

- Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons – Diesel and Oil Range Organics (TPH DRO/ORO) by SW-846 Method 8015B.

Surface water quality parameters will also be collected at each surface water sample location. These parameters will be collected using a Multi-parameter Water Quality real-time monitor. Measurements may not be possible at all locations. Site conditions and professional judgement will be used to assess whether monitoring can take place at a location or if the area is too contaminated to collect for readings. The data collected will be electronically logged when possible, or written out in the field logbook. Data collected will include:

- pH (0-14 standard units)
- Conductivity (Siemens/meter)
- Dissolved Oxygen (milligrams/liter)
- Turbidity (NTU)

This addendum also includes a change in the turnaround times for the analytical results requested for both surface water and sediment samples from a 24-hour turnaround time to a 10-day turnaround time. EPA had requested a 24-hour turnaround for preliminary results of analyses for the samples collected under the original QASP. The data from xx sediment samples and yy surface water samples collected as of May 7, 2010, have provided a good initial characterization of “background” (pre-spill) conditions along the Southeast Louisiana coast, fulfilling the data quality objective for the initial sampling event.

The remaining sediment samples to be collected under the existing QASP will be collected west of the Mississippi River. These samples are necessary for a complete characterization of the Louisiana coastline. However, modeling data indicates that the oil spill is less likely to migrate west and affect the coastline west of the mouth of the Mississippi River. Therefore, EPA does not need the analytical results from future samples as quickly and a 10-day turnaround time is sufficient for future decision making.

The 10-day turnaround time is sufficient also since the sample data will be correlated with data from 10-day toxicity tests being conducted under the original QASP.